

REMARKS

Claims 1-27, 29, 31-42, and 48-51 are rejected. Claims 28, 30, and 43-47 have been indicated as allowable by the Examiner.

By this Amendment, Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 6, 11, 13-14, 24-26, 33, and 36 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, and amended claims 2-5, 7-10, 12, 16, 18, 23, 27, 29, 31-32, 34-35, 37, and 48 to place the application in condition for allowance. Thus, after this Amendment, claims 2-5, 7-10, 12, 15-23, 27-32, 34-35, and 37-51 are pending in the application.

Applicants do not acquiesce in the Examiner's rejections, but instead have elected to make the above-mentioned amendments in an effort to expedite prosecution of this application leading to issuance of a patent. Reconsideration of the application as amended above and in view of the following remarks is earnestly solicited.

Rejections

The April 4, 2004 amendment was objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 132 as introducing new subject matter into the instant application. In order to expedite allowance of this application, and not to acquiesce in the Examiner's determination of new matter, Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 6, 11, 13-14, 24-26, 33, and 36. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 132 and 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-9, 11, 13, 24, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claims 1, 6, 11, 13, 24, and 26 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein and without acquiescing in the Examiner's rejection. Claims 2-5 are amended to depend from claim 28, which the Examiner has allowed, and claims 7-9 are amended to depend from claim 30, which the Examiner has allowed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the instant rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 103(a) Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 16-22, 29, 31-36, and 48-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Jenkins* (USP 4,484,367).

Claims 1, 6, and 36 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein and without acquiescing in the Examiner's rejection. Claims 2, 4-5, 16, 29, 31-32, 34-35, and 48 are amended to depend from claim 28, which the Examiner has allowed. Claims 7-9 are amended to depend from claim 30, which the Examiner has allowed. Claims 17-22 depend from claim 16, and claims 49-50 depend from claim 48. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claims 10-15, 23-27, 37-42, and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Jenkins* (USP 4,484,367).

Claims 11, 13-14, and 24-26 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein and without acquiescing in the Examiner's rejection. Claims 10, 12, 23, and 48 are amended to depend from claim 28, which the Examiner has allowed. Claim 15 depends from claim 10, claim 27 depends from claim 23, claim 37 depends from claim 10, claim 38 depends from claim 12, claim 39 depends from claim 16, claims 40-42 depend from claim 23, and claim 51 depends from claim 48. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Allowed Claims

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that claims 28, 30, and 43-47 have been allowed by the Examiner.

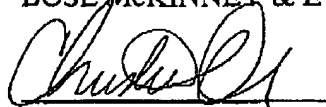
Final Remarks

Applicants submit that claims 2-5, 7-10, 12, 15-23, 27-32, and 34-35 are in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

If necessary, Applicants request that this Amendment be considered a request for an extension of time for a time appropriate for the response to be timely filed. Applicants request that any required fees for filing this Response be charged to the account of Bose McKinney & Evans LLP, Deposit Account Number 02-3223.

Respectfully submitted,

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